

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT 

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Academy Institute for Inorganic Chemistry is located in the compound of the former German Air Force research institute in Berlin-Adlershof.<sup>1</sup> It is headed by Prof. Erich Thilo, a member of the East German Academy of Sciences. Thilo's deputy is Dr. Funk (fnu); his secretary is Miss Arndt (fnu).

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3. The institute is not organized into departments, properly speaking. The work carried out there is subdivided rather according to personnel in charge of certain tasks. Sometimes the laboratories of scientists assigned to specific tasks are referred to as 'departments'. In the following structural breakdown the terms, department and laboratory, are used in the same loose way as they are used in the institute:

- a. Department for Silicate Research, headed by Dr. Funk (fnu). He is assisted by Witt (fnu), Miss Keller (fnu), Miss Hahn (fnu), and Stade (fnu). These persons are chemical technicians. In addition, a number of laboratory technicians and auxiliary personnel are assigned to Dr. Funk's work. This work is mainly concerned with the chemical

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structure of calcium hydrosilicates.

- b. X-Ray Department. This department was headed by Dr. Kohlhaas, [redacted] No successor had been appointed as of January 1955. For some time, it was planned to assign this function to Dr. Kaete Dornberger, head of the Crystal Structure Analysis Group in the Academy Institute for Medicine and Biology in Berlin-Buch. Dr. Dornberger's appointment, however, was rejected by Thilo, allegedly because Thilo did not favor her because of her strong political affiliations with the SED. The work of the department is provisionally directed by Dr. Seemann (fnu), a convinced Communist. Dr. Seemann and one mechanic by the name of Kaiser (fnu) are at present the only members of the SED in the institute among the scientists and technicians. The institute therefore has the reputation of being one of the most "reactionary" institutes of the academy. Dr. Seemann is assisted by Dipl. Chem. Liebau (fnu), Dipl. Phys. Waltraud Hilmer, and some auxiliary personnel. The X-Ray Department is engaged mainly in the crystal structure analysis of silicates and works in close cooperation with Dr. Funk's Department for Silicate Research. Emphasis has been recently placed upon the structural analysis of Wollastonit.
- c. Analytical Department, headed by Dr. Horstmar Hecht, who is assisted by chemical technician Frau Weiss (fnu) and Frau Nickisch (fnu). This department works mainly on the analysis and the preparation of inorganic thiophosphates.
- d. Laboratory for Chemical Research on Condensed Phosphates headed by Dr. Karl Heinz Rattay [redacted] Other technicians in this laboratory are Dipl. Chem. Friedrich Wodtke (Thilo's nephew), chemical technician Guenther Engel, and laboratory technician Frau Koechermann (fnu). The laboratory is engaged mainly in fundamental research on condensed phosphates by use of chemical methods.
- e. Laboratory for Physical Research on Condensed Phosphates, headed by Dr. Oskar Schmitt, assisted by chemical technician Miss Thierack (fnu). This laboratory is engaged mainly in research on condensed phosphates by use of physical methods, for instance viscosity measurements of condensed phosphates.
- f. Laboratory for Physico-Chemical Research on Condensed Phosphates, headed by Dr. Krueger (fnu), who is assisted by one laboratory technician. This laboratory is concerned mainly with the determination of the molecular weight of condensed phosphates and other physico-chemical research on them.
- g. Laboratory for Research on Phosphates. This laboratory is under the direct supervision of Erich Thilo. Other technicians working there are Dipl. Chem. Grunze (fnu), Dipl. Chem. Miss Born (fnu), and laboratory technician Heese (fnu).
- h. The Academy Laboratory for Research on Mineral Salts, headed by Dr. Serovy (fnu), is administratively under Thilo's supervision. This laboratory was scheduled to become an independent Academy Institute but this plan has not been carried out. Serovy's laboratory is engaged mainly in research on potassium salts.

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- i. Literature Department, headed by Dipl. Chem. Hilde Risel.
  - j. Administrative Department, headed by Fugmann (fnu - SED), who is assisted by Miss Schaefer (fnu).
4. In September and October 1954, the institute was visited by Prof. Reotov<sup>4</sup> (fnu), a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences specializing in inorganic chemistry, and by a Soviet metallurgist [redacted] who allegedly was the deputy chairman of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. In December 1954, the institute was visited by Topchiyev (fnu)<sup>3</sup>, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences specializing in organic chemistry.
 

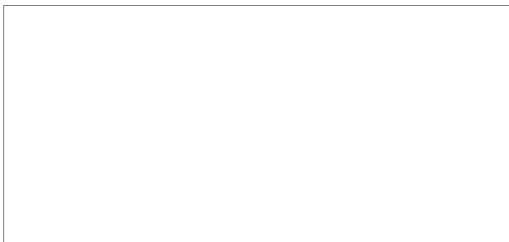
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  1. [redacted] Comment. The same building also houses the Academy Laboratory for Research on Mineral Salts headed by Dr. Serovy (fnu); the Academy Laboratory for Synthetic Materials headed by Dr. Alfred Wende; the newly founded Academy Institute for Organic Chemistry headed by Prof. Rieche (fnu); and another new Academy Institute for Organic Chemistry headed by Prof. Heinrich Bertsch.
 

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  2. [redacted] Comment. Rattay was a member of the SED until early 1954 when he left the party.
 

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  3. [redacted] Comment. Possibly Aleksandr Vasilyevich Topchiyev.
 

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  4. [redacted] Comment. Sic.
 

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